

Sheriff's Office of the City of Salem

A CULTURE OF CARING



A TRADITION OF SERVICE

2012 IN REVIEW
ERIC A. ATKINS, SHERIFF



SHERIFF'S OFFICE CITY OF SALEM

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sheriff Eric A. Atkins

FR: Major J. David Rorer
Chief Deputy

DA: February 20, 2013

RE: ANNUAL REPORT

With regard to VLEPSC Standard ADM.20.02 that mandates a report be prepared and made available for public review concerning agency statistics and activities, the following information is provided for the fulfillment of this standard.

The Sheriff's Office of the City of Salem is a criminal justice agency, constitutionally authorized, to provide security to the Courts, its collateral and supportive offices, courthouse facilities; service of all papers originating from the Courts; secure transportation of persons in custody to include inmates of local correctional facilities; transportation of persons in custody under mental health orders.

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Mission Statement

We, the professional men and women of the
Salem City Sheriff's Office,
are empowered to defend the
Constitution of the United States and the
Commonwealth of Virginia.

Through courtesy, care,
trust, and commitment, we will work diligently to
provide the most effective and safe delivery of
court services to our citizens.





Extradition is the process of justice in which a person accused of a crime is transferred under treaty or agreement, from one state to another state that seeks to place the accused on trial. The logistics, security planning and preparation for such an event are painstakingly carried out by the Office of Sheriff. During 2012, three out of state extraditions were successfully completed by appointees of the City of Salem Sheriff's Office.

2012 IN BRIEF

Another year of service successfully completed, can be added to the account of the Salem City Sheriff's Office. In the words of Sheriff Atkins, "success by my definition is the fulfillment of our mission without injury to any party." All responsibilities of the Office of Sheriff have been met and carried out in complete accord with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

During the year there were no injuries sustained by deputies and no reports of injury with regard to inmate custody. Training has been put to the test; challenges arose that required skillful handling and several new appointees came aboard to further enhance an extraordinary skill set of dedicated career deputies.

With the variety of national triumphs and tragedies of 2012, the Office of Sheriff of the City of Salem has been in position to lend assistance, most particularly during the June "derecho" storm that struck our city. During the November election day event, deputies of the office maintained vigilance over polling places and security for electoral officials without incident. Truly, 2012 has been a "defining year" for the men and women of the Sheriff's Office.

RETIREMENTS, NEW APPOINTEES AND PROMOTIONS

Deputy Allen McDaniel, a part time sworn appointee completed 10 years of dedicated service with the Sheriff's Office. He formally concluded his service in May 2012. Prior to his work with Salem, McDaniel had served over 27 years as a deputy with the Roanoke City Sheriff's Office. Our best wishes go to "Mac" and his wife Linda for a prosperous retirement.



Deputy Allen "Mac" McDaniel

Given the best practices principles locally known as "the Salem Way", Sheriff Atkins selected Christopher Logan Pruett to fill the only sworn full time vacancy of the year. Prior to appointment Deputy Pruett had been a City employee within the Water Department. Through my tenure as a deputy and later as Chief Deputy and Sheriff, "some of our very best employees have come to us from other departments in the City," says Sheriff Atkins. Sergeant April Staton, Master Deputy Steven Garber, Major David Rorer, and most recently, Deputies Flint Wright and Chris Blomberg all came from other stations in the City of Salem.



Deputy C.L. Pruett
Appointed 4/17



Deputy F.E. Wright
Appointed 3/19



Deputy J.C. Blomberg
Appointed 11/19

Great things happen to great people; and with great things, come greater requirements. This being stated, it was with pleasure that Sheriff Atkins promoted Deputy Stephen C. Swain to the position of Master Deputy as of June 1st. The position of master deputy within the Office of Sheriff requires the demonstration of knowledge, advanced skills with the equipment of law enforcement and a self less determination to serve others. Master Deputy Swain completed basic law enforcement training at Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy three weeks prior to his promotion. He was appointed to the Sheriff's Office in 2006.



Sheriff Atkins pins the master deputy collar pins on Stephen Swain

TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

Focus upon training and the acquisition of “the right” equipment is the key ingredient for successful outcomes in any endeavor. Sheriff Atkins has continued to emphasize this precept through his commitment to on-going training and skill development for all appointees.

On an annual basis, in-house training seminars are prepared by deputies with criminal justice instructor credentials. A variety of topics are addressed to include Virginia law, intermediate weapons re-certification and handling medical emergencies. The Sheriff's Office has on staff five Virginia Department of Criminal Justice certified instructors with the following specializations: *emergency vehicle operation; emergency medical first responder/CPR/AED; firearms; intermediate weapons; defensive tactics; new laws and acts of the General Assembly.*

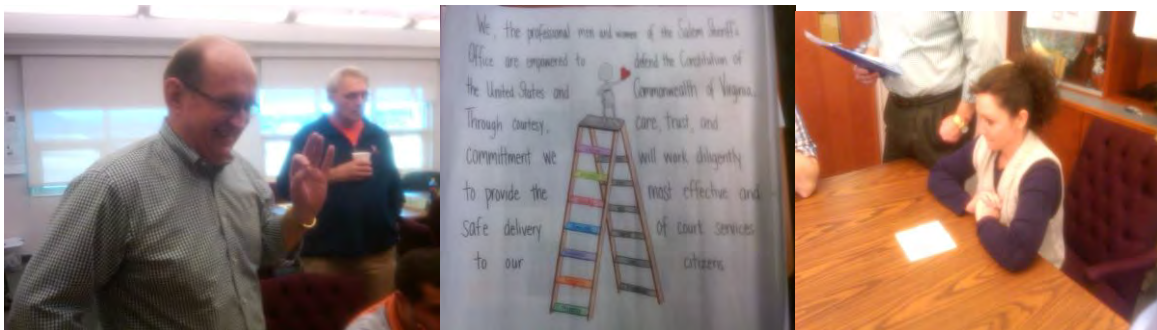
Topics such as court house security techniques, legal issues and specialized certifications are essential for competent performance. Every opportunity to utilize the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy, the regional training provider serving the City of Salem is exercised. Frequently however, very desirable training

opportunities become available that are held in other locales or out of state. Careful thought is given to the assignment of appointees to any out-of-town training venue.

The topic or skill to be learned or gained must be viable for use by the Office; proximity to Salem must figure into the consideration as many times the cost of room and board exceeds that of the training program and thirdly, the price tag per deputy to attend the training.

On January 13, 2012, all appointees participated in the annual training day event which brings in trainers/speakers from outside of the Office. The theme topic of the day was presented by Colonel (USAF ret'd) R. A. Moyer of IPCC Consultants. His message was entitled, *"Principles of Leadership for Sheriff's Office Personnel."* The message content was motivational and pertinent to the needs of every Sheriff's Office employee.

Deputies also interacted through a series of practical exercises to include a segment on their personal definitions or models of leadership. The training was held at the Virginia Western Community College Greenfield Center in Botetourt County. The use of the facility was at no cost.



(left) **Colonel Moyer gives the okay signal of a job well done by deputies in the practical exercises on January 13).** (middle) **Sergeant April Staton depicts leadership as "climbing a ladder of virtue and integrity."** (right) **Deputy Sarah Duffy contemplates the next move of her opponents during the training exercises.**

Annual firearms training and re-qualifications were held in October. Training scenarios centered upon simulated "unusual occurrences" in the operation of the courthouse. The event was held under the supervision of Major Rorer at the Paul Price Firing Range. In addition to field exercises, classroom instruction was provided concerning agency policies relative to the use of force.



Master Deputy Steve Garber fires a perfect score with the 12 gauge shotgun during annual training held at the Paul Price Firing Range

Throughout the year members of the Sheriff's Office attended a variety of specialized schools. Deputy Brian Herndon and Deputy Sarah Duffy attended an intensive weeklong course in crisis intervention. This training specifically addressed the needs of the persons having behavioral disorders. Provided under the auspices of the Valley Mental Health Association, and held at Roanoke City Police Academy, the curriculum was facilitated by clinicians and criminal justice professionals. For 2013, additional personnel from the Salem Sheriff's Office will be assigned to complete this training, which is provided without tuition or fees.

Major Rorer and Deputy Pruett attended the US Marshals Service Courthouse Security Seminar for 2012 which is held at the Federal Law Enforcement Train Center, Glynco Georgia. The weeklong program focuses upon dealing with potential threats to our judiciary and buildings. This term focused upon developing knowledge of domestic terrorism and included a segment in improvised explosive device recognition. Other than transportation to and from the center, the training was free of charge.



Controlled exercise in which an IED was detonated



***The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
Glynco, Georgia***

In the category of new equipment, the Salem Sheriff's Office was enabled to replace an aging and greatly "problematic" two-way radio system in 2012. Having been awarded a grant under the Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program of the US Department of Justice and Virginia's Department of Criminal Justice Services, funds were provided with a minimal match provided by the City of Salem.

16 Motorola XTS® 1500 digital transceivers along with three consoles for office use were acquired through the grant. Additionally with grant funds, the new **CISCO IP** Phone System was installed, providing significant savings to the City.



CISCO IP PHONE - *internet addressable phone system*



Motorola XTS® Base – *minimal utilization of space; maximum radio capability*



The **Motorola XTS® radio** systems comply with both Project 16 and Project 25 standards (Interoperable voice signaling between other departments) as established for public safety agencies by the Federal Communications Commission. This model was purchased by the **Salem Sheriff's Office** on federal grant funds requiring only a modest local match.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY

One of the critical functions incumbent upon the Office of Sheriff is to ensure the safety of all persons utilizing the courthouse facility and furthermore, to administer all security procedures involving its operation. Intensive focus is given by sworn personnel in preparation for the various categories of hearings and trials. In doing so, risks are minimized and courts are able to function at the highest levels of efficiency.

During mid 2011, the Salem Courthouse was equipped with state of the art security camera equipment utilizing the latest digital technologies. After one year of function, the system has produced photographic images that were successfully introduced as evidence in two criminal prosecutions as well as being utilized in a number of investigative inquiries by Salem Police.



2/18/2013 09:32:02.58 drorer@city.salem.int
Calhoun St - East(10.60.35.12) @ Default Location Remote Service

This image depicts one of the many features of the Salem Courthouse video surveillance system. The quality of images is sufficient for identification in most circumstances. All persons entering the courthouse are "on camera" in real time.

The camera system was entirely funded through a Federal Homeland Security Grant for the improvement of security regarding vital governmental buildings.



The security camera system was initiated by Sheriff Atkins through a grant application. The grant was awarded at 100% level using no local funds. This particular camera platform stands "guard duty 24/7" at the public access way leading to the Courthouse.

NOTABLE TRIALS - 2012

During 2012 several highly publicized cases were prosecuted in the City of Salem. Many deputy work hours were expended in security planning and arrangement for these high risk or significantly publicized trials. Throughout the entire course of proceedings, Salem Sheriff's Deputies effected elevated security protocols and as a result, no incidences of violence or other criminal acts transpired.

The trial gaining the most media attention was that of two Roanoke men who stole a car from two women having a late dinner in the parking lot of a Salem apartment complex in March 2011.



Jason Dale Thomas (left) and Jarrell Antwan Snyder both convicted of serious crimes in Salem

The charges against Thomas and Snyder included counts for carjacking, malicious wounding, attempted malicious wounding and firearms charges. During a three day jury trial which culminated in a marathon session that went past midnight, the

jury reached verdicts during the early morning hours of Saturday March 17. The men were convicted by the jury on a total of 14 counts.

Throughout the entire trial, Salem deputies maintained heightened vigilance and careful handling of the security issues surrounding the case. There were no unusual incidences during the entire length of the trial. The needs of jurors were met at every point to include the provision of meals, snacks and other gestures of hospitality. Likewise, families of both victims and defendants were accorded the courtesies of dignity and thoughtful compassion which is the “hallmark stratagem” unique to the Salem Sheriff’s Office.

During the year 2012, 689 sessions of court proceedings in all categories to include arraignments, bond hearings, civil suits and criminal trials were safeguarded by Salem deputy sheriff’s without injury to any party or other unusual incident. In **Sheriff Atkins’** words, *“comprehensive planning from all angles and quality training to execute the plan pays off big in statistics that simply cannot be measured by number or dollars and cents.”*

CORRECTIONS TECHNOLOGY/ WORK PRACTICES

The cost of care and confinement of persons remanded to the custody of the Sheriff is the single most costly expense associated with Office operations. As state government continues to minimize its fiscal support of local corrections, localities are left with few options for footing the bill given the ever growing costs of jail operation. The City of Salem owns in partnership with Roanoke County, 22.72% interest in the operation of the Roanoke County/Salem Jail.



Standard operating procedure applicable to all persons in custody – waist chains and handcuffs

The City is also a partner with Franklin, Montgomery and Roanoke Counties in the operation of the Western Virginia Regional Jail located near Dixie Caverns.

In 2012, over 2500 inmates were placed into the custody of either of the two holding facilities serving the City of Salem. The cost of maintaining inmates

continues to steadily increase. In an effort to minimize and or offset jail costs, Sheriff Atkins devised a program to provide for the implementation of community service tasks in lieu of incarceration.

The “City of Salem Sheriff’s Office Volunteer Workforce Program” has been in continuous operation since July 1, 2010 the program to date has generated well over **3000 hours of labor** as applied to city departments such as the Courthouse, Civic Center, Parks and Recreation and others. On the basis of US minimum wage, this would calculate to **at least \$14,500** of labor cost savings to the City. As a viable alternative to completing jail sentences, figures indicate taxpayer savings of well over \$8,000 in per diem costs. The program is managed by **Lieutenant M.L. Huffman.**

The safe and timely delivery of the incarcerated to court appearances is one of the many responsibilities of the Office of the Sheriff. During the year 2012, Salem Sheriff’s deputies completed exactly 1070 transports of persons in custody and those under authority of civil committal. Over 65,000 miles were logged on agency vehicles resulting from local transports as well as those from points across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

SPECIAL PROJECTS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The Sheriff’s Office provides support, by personal donation and/or professional services to some very worthy causes; *Salem High School After-Prom Event* and the *Needlework Guild*.



Deputy Duffy gets into the “prom spirit” as Master Deputy Steve Garber maintains a “watchful eye” over the festivities and games of the 2012 Salem High School After-Prom Party.

During the late evening of May 12, deputies were assigned to security and enforcement duties at the Homer Bast Coliseum (Roanoke College) location of the *Salem High School After-Prom* party for students. Under the direct supervision of **Major Rorer**, the deputies were tasked with the responsibility of providing security for the event. Attendees enjoy a late night of fun and entertainment in a safe, secure and healthy venue. This provision of service helps to alleviate the “myriad of concerns” of Salem parents.

Appointees of the Sheriff’s Office continue to support the very worthwhile project called “The Needlework Guild.” By donating their spare change on a daily basis, the annual accumulation of funds can be applied to providing clothing for two needy Salem students during the fall of each year. The Office as a whole has participated in the program since 2009.

The Sheriff’s Office Speaker’s Bureau was active in 2012. During the year, **Deputy Stephen Ferguson** was a participant in the Roanoke County Model General Assembly program for high school seniors and **Deputy Sarah Duffy** presented a program to youngsters during the fall.



Special presentation for Mr. Marshall Dennison (center) by Major David Rorer as honorary deputy of the Salem Sheriff’s Office.



Sheriff Atkins along with Sam Lionberger, Jr. of Lionberger Construction Company receiving the Paul Harris Fellow Award by the Salem Rotary Club.

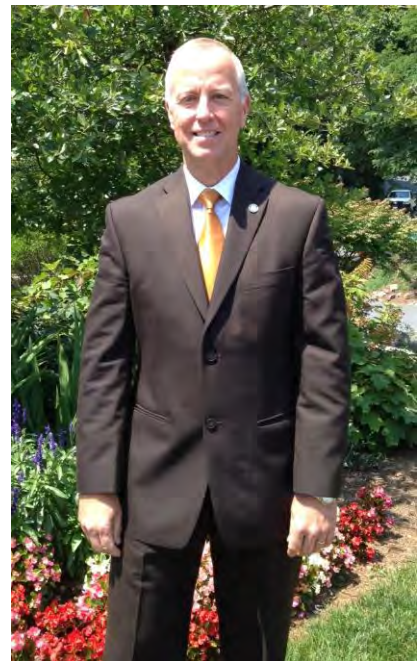
As of July 1, the Salem Sheriff’s Office committed resources in the support of Roanoke Valley Crime Line. The program is run by the citizens and business people of the community. It is administered through valley wide cooperation among the police departments of Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Vinton, Salem, and Botetourt County.

In hundreds of cities across America, the program has recovered millions of dollars in stolen property and helped to deter criminal activity. **Sergeant April Staton** is the designated Sheriff’s Office representative for the City of Salem. Since the effective date, posters and brochures have been visibly placed throughout the courthouse.



Posters such as the one depicted above seek to encourage persons, including those who may be in custody to help out with tips - a reward may be waiting for them!

SPECIAL EVENTS/HONORS



SHERIFF ERIC ATKINS
VLEPSC BOARD MEMBER

Active participation in the on-going process of maintaining accredited status is a primary objective established by Sheriff Atkins. In 2011, **Sheriff Atkins** was selected from among other sheriff's in the Commonwealth of Virginia to serve as an executive board member on the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC). This important task seeks to improve the efficiency and competency of law enforcement in Virginia through the promotion of agency accreditation.



Sheriff Atkins representing the Executive Board of VLEPSC presents the highly coveted certificate of re-accreditation to Chief of Police Mark Sisson and staff members of the Christiansburg Police Department. (10/2012)

A measure of the commitment of the Office to law enforcement accreditation can be seen in the activities of Major David Rorer, who has earned the designation of master assessor in the program. He has performed over twenty on-site assessments of both police and sheriff offices across the Commonwealth. Most recently he participated in the assessment of the Radford University Police Department in December 2012.

(below) ***Salem parents of RU students can rest comfortably as the campus is served by a VLEPSC accredited agency, the Radford University Police Department. Major Rorer, Chief Deputy of the City of Salem Sheriff's Office participated in an exhaustive evaluation of the policies and procedures of the agency; the agency earned an "A+" and was re-accredited in January 2013.***



Notably, the **City of Salem** was the first city in the Commonwealth to have both its police department and sheriff's office achieve law enforcement accreditation under the VLEPSC. The Salem Sheriff's Office will undergo assessment for re-accreditation during the first quarter of 2013.



In December, City of Salem service honors were conferred upon Deputy Sarah Duffy with 5 years of service; Deputy Logan Pruett with 5 years of service* and Sergeant April M. Staton with 10 years of service.

LOOKING FORWARD IN 2013

Skill development through training will continue to be the main focus for improving the capabilities of all appointees of the Salem Sheriff's Office. Another concern that will garner close attention will be the development of options to minimize the associated costs of confinement and care of inmates committed to the custody of the Sheriff. Every effort will be made to carefully handle the public funds accorded to this Office. Under the direction of **Sheriff Atkins**, the **men and women of the Office** are actively engaging in the fulfillment of their mission and to maintain the preamble of our organization.....

A custom of caring; a tradition of service

CITY OF SALEM SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Workload Measures Data for 2012

<i>Service of Court Papers</i>	
Levies executed	10
Writ of Possessions (Fieri Facias)	122
Subpoenas served	9,506
Jury summons served	703
Temporary Detention Orders served	24
Criminal warrants served	0
Other civil process served	12,342
TOTAL SERVICES	22,575
<i>Collections</i>	
Fees and Commissions	\$ 1,531.00
Collections on Levies	1,184.15
Sheriff's Sales	-0-
Total Money handled and disbursed	\$ 2,615.15
REMITTED TO TREASURER	\$ 1,531.00

<i>Courts Worked</i>	
Circuit Court	225
General District Court	286
Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court	178
TOTAL SESSIONS	689

<i>Transportation</i>	
Inmate court appearances	945
Juvenile court appearances	65
Inmate medical events	27
Mental patient transports	28
Juvenile mental patient transports	5
TOTAL TRANSPORTS	1070
TOTAL MILEAGE	65,358 miles
<i>Extraditions</i>	
Extraditions (out of state)	3

<i>Custody</i>	
Persons taken into custody from court	242
Number placed in Roanoke County/Salem Jail	955
Number placed in Western Virginia Regional Jail	1609

<i>Deputy Accidents/Injuries</i>	
Consecutive days without a lost time accident	365
Vehicular accidents	0



City of Salem Sheriff's Office

Eric A. Atkins, Sheriff

2 East Calhoun Street

Salem, Virginia 24153